

APPENDIX 1

ISSUE DISPOSITION

In compliance with NEPA, the proposed action was listed in the April and July 2002 editions of the *Salem District Project Update* which were mailed to over 1,000 addresses, as well as a letter mailed on August 1, 2002 to 106 potentially affected and/or interested individuals, groups, and agencies (Project Record, Document 21 and 22). A presentation was also given to the Yamhill Watershed Council on August 7, 2002, which was attended by eleven people (Project Record, Document 24). A total of three letters were received as a result of this scoping (Project Record, Documents 23, 25, 26). Project record, document 23 is the only letter that arrived during the designated 1- month scoping period. All public input was assigned a number and filed in the Project Record. The IDT reviewed, clarified, and assessed the public comments. All comments presented in this document are direct quotes from the comments received. A field trip was also given on February 4, 2003 to two biologists from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Document 23 – Rob Freres

Comment a: ...*”The BLM has done a great job considering the major resource, social and economic challenges that may be cause by the proposed action”*

BLM response: Thank-you very much.

Comment b: ... *“ We would ask that the maximum log length be increased to 44 feet so we can produce 10-foot multiple products plus trim”*

BLM response: It is our intention that the successful buyer would be able to produce such products. We had written in the scoping report that: “Log lengths would be limited to 40 feet plus trim to reduce damage to the reserved trees during yarding operations”. We intended that ‘trim’ to include up to 4 feet. We will re-write that design feature to insure that it is clear that the maximum log length can be up to 44 feet (including trim).

Comment c: ...*”The location of the project would lend itself to be designated a small business set aside sale and be in the vicinity of numerous small businesses as opposed to projects further west.”*

BLM response: If the small business set aside is ‘triggered’ than we will sell it as a small business set aside.

Document 25: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Comment d: ...*"The NWWD supports a program of variable-density thinning that would result in a more complex and biologically diverse understory of plant communities and the resultant diversification and enhancement of wildlife habitats."*

BLM response: We are happy that you support this project. We are in the process of planning similar types of projects in different parts of the Tillamook Resource Area.

Comment e: *"We recommend that the management of Coarse Woody Debris (CWD) within stands of suitable habitat be maintained at the higher target levels (5940 cubic feet per acre) to enhance and/or maintain biological diversity and ecosystem health."*

BLM response: The wildlife habitat enhancement project will be creating CWD in suitable Spotted Owl habitat. Because most of these stands are still relatively young, 80 to 110 years old, we do not anticipate that we will be creating CWD to meet the high end of the high target level with this project. Rather, we anticipate that this will be a first installment, in which we will be working towards the higher target levels. If CWD is created in several iterations it will allow us to have a good representation of all decay classes, when the stands are 150 to 200 years old. A number of factors are taken into consideration before the exact prescription was developed. These factors include but aren't limited to: the amount of existing CWD in the stand; the amount of *Phellinus weirri* in the stand; the species composition of the stand; potential for future CWD recruitment; level of concern for increasing the Douglas-fir beetle populations; and available funding levels.

Comment f: *"Road systems and road density should be kept to a minimum. We would recommend that roads not needed for ongoing management of the project areas be decommissioned or 'put-to-bed' by road obliteration. The practice of blocking roads and laying branches on roads to block OHV use has proven to be ineffective in western Oregon unless vegetation and terrain features naturally blocks OHV use."*

BLM response: We agree with your comment. Project objectives # f and g on page 5 of the EA clearly state our commitment to reducing road densities, and not increasing current levels of OHV activity. This project is proposing to reduce road densities by 1.6 miles. The project will also pay for reducing 2.5 miles of road that were analyzed in the Yamhill Road Stabilization EA. At a minimum, roads that are no longer needed will be blocked at the entrance, the culverts will be pulled, they will be decommissioned by using a subsoiler, and water bars will be put in.

Comment g: *"There is a specific need for habitat improvements for large ungulates (deer and elk) in the project areas. Current forage practices in northwest Oregon have reduced the amount and quality of forage for these species. We would recommend that areas of ground scarification (skid trails, temporary roads, decommissioned roads, landings, and roads 'put-to-bed' be seeded with a suitable big game forage mix. The NWWD staff can recommend a suitable mix of both grass and legume seed that was developed to provide good erosion control, reduce sod formation, are shade intolerant,*

would not be persistent in the landscape, and would provide quality forage for resident deer and elk populations.

BLM response: We would appreciate any information that you can give us on a suitable big-game forage mix. We will contact you and ask you for more specific information. Specifically, we need to know where it is available and whether it meets the ‘native plant’ requirements set forth in the Salem District Resource Management Plan. The BLM is in the process of growing and producing native grass and forb plants for seed at the Horning Seed Orchard. We anticipate that we will have enough seed from the native stock that we are growing that can be used for the Baker Creek project, by the time this project gets implemented.

Comment h: “The NWWD would recommend that access roads not blocked to motorized vehicle access and/or OHV use be developed in a manner that provides roadside visual barriers. A screening of vegetation would provide some level of security and reduced harassment for wildlife utilizing these project areas.

BLM response: We agree with your comment. A BLM biologist has looked through the project area and identified several locations along major roads in which the maintenance of a visual buffer might reduce harassment to wildlife. The areas identified are in section 35 and section 25, and already have dense thickets of western hemlock along the road. An effort will be made to maintain these dense roadside thickets.

Document 26 – Oregon Natural Resources Council contained no public comment.